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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

96-HOUR REPORT

20 FEBRUARY 2018

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – American Airlines Agent Saves Two Teenage Girls from Human Trafficking Scheme

(U) Authorities are crediting an airline employee who trusted her instincts for thwarting a human trafficking scheme by preventing two teenage girls from getting on a flight to New York to meet an online predator. American Airline agent Denice Miracle noticed two girls, 15 and 17, who came to her ticket counter with a number of small bags but no identification and seemingly receiving instructions via text message. Miracle also observed their expensive first-class tickets from Sacramento to New York were purchased online, and the credit card used was in a different name. Miracle contacted the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and when deputies arrived, the teenagers told them they met a man called "Drey" on Instagram, who invited them to New York for the weekend to earn \$2000 for some modeling in music videos. Authorities say they located "Drey" on social media, but after briefly making contact with him, all of his accounts went dark.

SOURCE: 16 February 2018, [KQVR - CNN](#)

(U) San Diego – Prosecutors Push to Hold Drug Dealers Accountable for Overdose Deaths

(U) The worsening opioid crisis in San Diego has prompted county and federal prosecutors to begin to hold drug dealers accountable for overdose deaths. A task force is forming to evaluate each new death to determine if charges, such as murder, are appropriate. Law enforcement is being encouraged to treat overdose scenes as potential murder cases to preserve evidence. Two cases have been filed so far. A young man in Ramona is facing a federal charge, distribution of heroin resulting in death, on allegations that he sold heroin to a friend who overdosed, and a Poway man is charged with murder, accused of knowingly selling a pill as oxycodone when it was in fact fentanyl.

SOURCE: 17 February 2018, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) San Francisco – Professor Leading Bid to Recall Judge Receives 'White Powder' Threat

(U) A Stanford law professor leading the effort to recall a judge in a controversial sexual assault case said Wednesday that someone sent her an envelope containing "white powder" and a threatening note. The incident prompted Stanford Law School to shut down two rooms and send out a campus alert.

Investigators later determined the substance was an inert powder that poses no health concern, university officials said.

SOURCE: 15 February 2018, [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Charleston – Officials Probe First Possible Drone Related Aircraft Crash in the US

(U) South Carolina – Authorities have started an investigation into what could be the first drone-related aircraft crash in the US. A helicopter pilot and student crashed in South Carolina on Wednesday and told investigators they saw a small drone appear in front of them while practicing maneuvers 50 feet above a tree line. To avoid a collision, the pilot reportedly took control back from the student and performed

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evasive maneuvers. The helicopter's tail hit a tree, causing the pilot to lose control and resulting in a crash landing. The FAA has not confirmed whether a drone played a part in the crash; however, the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating and aware that a drone may have been involved.
SOURCE: 16 February 2018, [Bloomberg](#)

(U) New York – Yemeni Man Pleads Guilty in US of Trying to Join ISIS

(U) New York – A Yemen-born New York City resident on Friday pled guilty to attempting to provide support to the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), admitting that he tried to join the organization and urged someone else to join too. Mohamed Rafik Naji entered his plea to one count of attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization at a hearing before US District Judge Frederic Block in Brooklyn. According to a criminal complaint filed around the time of the arrest, Naji flew to Turkey to join ISIS in Yemen in March 2015, and returned to New York in September 2015, flying from Djibouti. He faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

SOURCE: 16 February 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Utah – ISIS Flag Replaces High School American Flag, and Graffiti Warns of Potential Terror Attack

(U) Hurricane City – An American flag at a Utah high school was removed last week and replaced by the flag of ISIS, police confirmed. The words “ISIS is comin” were also spray painted on the school’s wall, leading investigators to believe that someone had tried to write “ISIS is coming,” but had been forced to flee before finishing. Classes resumed as usual because police did not believe the school was in danger, but sent a picture of the flag to the FBI for further investigation. Police in Hurricane City also said it is not believed that the person who hung the ISIS flag was affiliated with the group, but no arrests have yet been made.

SOURCE: 16 February 2018, [Newsweek](#)

(U) Washington – 13 Russians Charged with Elaborate Plot to Interfere in 2016 Presidential Election

(U) District of Columbia – The US special counsel accused 13 Russians on Friday of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 presidential election, charging them with running a large but hidden social media campaign aimed in part at helping Republican Donald Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton. The federal indictment, brought by special counsel Robert Mueller, represents the most detailed allegations to date of illegal Russian meddling during the 2016 election. It also marks the first criminal charges against Russians believed to have secretly worked to influence the outcome.

SOURCE: 17 February 2018, [Chicago Tribune](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Iraq – ISIS Claims Attack on Shiite Militia in Iraq; 27 dead**

(U) Hawija — ISIS claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on a Shiite militia group near the Iraqi city of Hawija over the weekend, an ambush that killed more than two dozen. It was the deadliest attack against Iraq's Shiite-led Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) since the country's forces wrested Hawija from the terror group in October 2017. At least 27 PMU fighters died in the Sunday night assault, southwest of Kirkuk, according to a statement released by the group yesterday. Dozens of ISIS militants attacked several PMU military checkpoints on a highway near the town of Hawija, security officials in Kirkuk said.

SOURCE: 19 February 2018, [CNN](#)

(U) Mexico – Mexico Special Agents Found Dead After Cartel Kidnapping

(U) Xalisco — Forensic experts in Mexico say human remains found last week are those of two special agents kidnapped by armed men earlier this month. Octavio Martínez and Alfonso Hernández were

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members of Mexico's Criminal Investigation Agency, a unit created in 2013 to fight organized crime. A week after their disappearance, a video was posted on YouTube showing them surrounded by armed men. They were forced to read a statement critical of their agency at gunpoint. The armed men appearing in the video are believed to be members of the Jalisco New Generation cartel, although their identity has not been independently verified.

SOURCE: 19 February 2018, [BBC](#)

(U) United Kingdom – US and UK Negotiate Fate of Captured ISIS “Beatles”

(U) London — The US and UK are in talks about what to do with two men from west London who were captured in Syria last month on suspicion of being members of an ISIS cell that killed Western hostages, to include US citizens James Foley, Peter Sotloff and Peter Kassig. Alexanda Kotey and El Shafee Elsheikh are accused of being the last two of four UK ISIS members known as “the Beatles,” because of their British accents. Currently stripped of their British citizenship, it has been suggested the pair could be sent to the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay. Alternatively, they could be put on criminal trial in the US or at the International Criminal Court, The Hague, which can prosecute people for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and aggression.

SOURCE: 20 February 2018, [BBC](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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